



Testimony offered on behalf of:
THE GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IN SUPPORT OF:
HB 1021 – Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Seasonal Temporary Workers

**Economic Matters Committee
February 25, 2020**

On behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, representing 600 member organizations in Western Maryland, I write to express our support of **HB 1021 – Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Seasonal Temporary Workers.**

The Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, not only put a financial and workforce strain on many small businesses and non-profits in Maryland, it has wreaked havoc in their record keeping and payroll administration, especially in regards to seasonal and temporary employees. Many businesses and non-profits are still struggling with the required tracking and reporting protocols that are excessive and onerous. Additionally, they are now dealing with higher absenteeism and abuse of the law.

To relieve some of this burden on businesses, while still keeping with the spirit and intent of the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, the bill must be amended. The fact that seasonal employees are provided sick and safe leave (SSL) at all is unwarranted and unnecessary. However, a threshold of 106 days to begin earning SSL is unjustifiably low. Even the Affordable Care Act sets a threshold of 120 days in a 12-month period for seasonal and temporary employees. HB 1021 amends the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act by increasing the threshold to 120 days of employment to be eligible to earn SSL.

The Chamber respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE committee report on HB 1021.**

Sincerely,

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